46. Akola Gramin Bank, Akola (Maharashtra).

47. Surat Bharuch Gramin Bank, Bharuch (Gujarat).

[Placed in Library. For (1) to (47) See No. LT—1286 to 1332/90]

THE FAMILY COURTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1990

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): Madam, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Family Courts Act, 1984.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I want to raise a very important matter that has happened in Tamil Nadu.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will allow. Just a minute. The Leader of the Opposition is on his legs. I think I should give him preference. Yes, Leader of the Opposition.

ALLEGED INTERFERENCE WITH THE JUDICIAL PROCESS IN THE SYED MODI MURDER CASE

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): Madam, I would like to bring to your notice and through you to the notice of this House and the nation, the blatant interference with the judicial process which threatens the rule of law and the fabric of our democracy. Madam, it has been reported in the newspapers that in the Syed Modi murder case the CBI had engaged three counsel, the main counsel being Mr. Samant and the other two assisting counsel. All the three counsel were changed just on the eve when the chargesheet was to be framed today, at such an occasion when on the other side, on behalf of the defence, an array of formidable lawyers, including Mr. Ram Jethmalani who is the Member of this House, were ranged. The competent lawyers were sought to be removed. Of course, at a later stage when it was brought to the notice of the Prime Minister they have been reinstated. I would also bring to the notice of this House that just on such an occasion a very eminent Sessions Judge, Mr. I. S. Mathur, who was handling the case has been transferred to the Institute of Judicial Training and Research as a District and Sessions Judge and a new gentleman has been posted by name Mr. Pradhan, who is going to retire in about a month and half's time. It is such a person who has been brought. All these actions, I would like to submit, smack of mala fides. A person who is the relation of the Prime Minister, they should have taken more care about him. Madam, where a person is a relation of the Prime Minister, what impression do you give to the world? What impression do you give to the country? You give the impression that there will not be a fair trial in this case for such a heinous offence of murder. What impression are you giving to the country? That is why I would like to bring to the notice of this House that—we do not know—it is said that when once it came to the notice of the Prime Minister, he directed that all those lawyers must be reinstated and they should continue. But we would like to know what action is going to be taken against those who were responsible for the removal of these lawyers because some action must be taken against such people. To me, it smacks of an impression: should we believe that the removal could take place without the knowledge of the Prime Minister himself, without the knowledge of the Home Minister?

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): It cannot happen.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: These are the questions which are para-